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(54) PRODUCTION OF PHENOL RESIN

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To produce a phenol resin at a low cost in an industrial scale by oxidatively polymerizing a phenol in a solvent in the presence of a porphyrin- metal complex.

SOLUTION: A phenol of the formula is pref. In the formula, Y and Z are each H, a halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, allyl, or the like, and Z may be a fused benzene ring having, jointly with phenol, a hydrogen atom at the adjacent m- position provided when Y is at the o- or pposition, then one of Y and Z is H. The solvent used is pref. a water soln./org. solvent mixture. Dioxane, etc., are listed as the org. solvents. The water soln. is pref. a buffer soln. contg. a phosphate, etc., esp. pref. one adjusted to a pH of 4-12. The most suitable solvent mixture has a vol. ratio of the org. solvent to the buffer soln. of (1:9)-(9:1). Chlorprotohemine is the most favorabale as the porphyrin-metal complex.

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